

Fall 8-15-2014

ENG 3903-001: Women, Literature, and Language

Ruth Hoberman
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2014



Part of the [English Language and Literature Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Hoberman, Ruth, "ENG 3903-001: Women, Literature, and Language" (2014). *Fall 2014*. 84.
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall2014/84

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 2014 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 2014 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.

Ruth Hoberman
 Coleman 3755
 Office hours: M 2-4; W 2-5
 Fall 2014
rhoberman@eiu.edu

Women, Literature, and Language. May focus on roles of women in literature, on literature by women or on women's relation to language.

ENG 3903 Reclaiming the F Word: Modern Women Rewriting Sexuality

Texts:

Barker, *Blow Your House Down* (1984)
 Bland, *Sexology Uncensored*
 Carter, *The Bloody Chamber* (1979)
 Churchill, *Plays: One* (1979)
 Hall, *Well of Loneliness* (1928)
 Jong, *Fear of Flying* (1973)
 Kincaid, *Lucy* (1990)
 Loy, *Lost Lunar Baedeker*
 Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark* (1934)
 Winterson, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* (1985)
 Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)
 Hand-outs

Goals:

In *Making Peace: The Reconstruction of Gender in Interwar Britain*, anthropologist Susan Kingsley Kent notes that after World War I, part of the effort to lure women out of the workforce and back into the home involved publicizing the sexual pleasure women could gain from marriage. Starting with Marie Stopes's 1918 *Married Love*, a barrage of marriage manuals glamorized marriage as a source of sexual fulfillment and stigmatized the spinster as a sexually frustrated old maid. For many twentieth-century women writers, however, this picture of societally sanctioned marital pleasure was troublingly simplistic and potentially oppressive. In their fiction and poetry, these writers insisted on the pleasures of same-sex as well as heterosexual love, the complexities of gender identity and sexual desire, and the delights of celibacy. This class will focus on works by twentieth-century British (for the most part) women writers, focusing on their efforts to rewrite traditional marriage plots and challenge oppressive notions of women's sexuality.

More specifically, goals include:

- understanding the late-nineteenth century origins of sexology and its permutations during the course of the twentieth century
- understanding modern British women's poetry and fiction as part of an ongoing cultural conversation about gender and sexuality.
- understanding modern British women writers in the context of literary, women's, and cultural history.
- This class is particularly supportive of University learning goals related to critical thinking, writing and critical reading, speaking, listening, and responsible citizenship.

Policies:

Academic Integrity. Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

English Department statement on plagiarism. Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--"The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) --has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of NC for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. Respect for the work of others should encompass all formats, including print, electronic, and oral sources.

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by Ninth Street Hall, Room 2006, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, text taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581- 6696, or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

Late work: will not be accepted except in cases of documented illness/emergency, or if you have consulted with me ahead of time. Brief writing and on-line assignments must be done for the assigned class to be acceptable. Essays a week or more late will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Attendance: Attendance at every class is expected. Note that a portion of the grade is based on class participation, in-class writing, and on-line postings, all of which require keeping up with the reading and being in class. *Excessive absences will result in a grade of 0 for the participation portion of your grade.* If illness or personal emergency keeps you from class, let me know; when you return, ask about hand-outs and reading assignments you may have missed.

Requirements/grades:

Two essays: 10% and 20%

Midterm and final: 10% and 20%

D2L postings: 20%

In-class writing/involvement/participation/oral presentations: 20%

Essay grades will be based on Guidelines for Evaluating Writing Assignments in EIU's English Department. I plan to use number rather than letter grades; this will convert into your final grade as follows: 91-100=A; 81-90=B; 71-80=C.

Responses: Each week, you'll be required to write responses to a reading assignment on D2L. Your response *must be posted at least 60 minutes before the class for which the assignment is due, and you must be present in that class to receive credit.* Plan on writing a thoughtful 1-2 paragraph response in the course of which you: 1. respond to the comments of at least one other student (unless you're the first to post); 2. make some observation about what you've read and develop your idea; and 3. quote directly from the reading (providing p. number in parentheses after your quotation).

Tentative Syllabus

I. Turn-of-the-century sexology: sexual difference, inversion, and race

Tues August 26: late Victorian sexology and its context.

for Thurs 28: Read in *Sexology*, Ellis, “Man and Woman” (22-24), Forel, “The Sexual Question” (28-29; 221-23), Krafft-Ebing, “Psychopathia Sexualis” (45-47), Carpenter, “Intermediate Sex” (48-50), Ellis, “Sexual Inversion” (52-56, 91-97). Burton, “Sotadic Zone” (203-04). Post #1 to D2L.

Tues Sept 2: West, “Indissoluble Matrimony” (HO). Post #2 to D2L for Tu or Th. Explore journals at <http://modjournal.org> with special attention to *Blast*.

Thurs Sept 4: Loy, *Lunar Baedeker*: “Feminist Manifesto,” “Parturition,” “Three Moments in Paris,” “Sketch of a Man on a Platform,” “Virgins Plus Curtains, Minus Dots,” “The Effectual Marriage”

Tues Sept 9: oral presentations (in pairs): Modernist Journals Project. Focus on one issue of one journal (if the journal addresses social issues/gender—possibilities include *Freewoman*, *New Freewoman*, *Egoist*, *New Age*, *Crisis*—and is dated 1905-1920); OR search one word in multiple journals (try sex or gender or prostitution or related term); OR one author in multiple journals (possibilities: Rebecca West, Dora Marsden, Mina Loy, Beatrice Hastings). Recommended: Janine Utell’s essay on “The Woman Question.”

Thurs Sept 11: Hand in essay #1. Loy, “Songs to Joannes”

II. Post WWI: marriage manuals, Freud, eugenics, prostitution

Tues. Sept 16: Ellis “Analysis of the Sexual Impulse” (109-16), Stopes, “Married Love” (116-21). Russell “Hypatia” (123-25), Van de Velde, “Ideal Marriage” (125-30), Pearson “Eugenics” (169-71), Lombroso, “Female Offender” (206-07), Freud, “Female Sexuality” (HO). Post #3 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Sept 18. Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway*

Tues. Sept 23: Woolf. Post #4 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Sept 25: Woolf

Tues. Sept 30: Hall, *Well of Loneliness*. Post #5 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Oct 2: Hall

Tues. Oct. 7: Hall. Post #6 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs. Oct 9: Rhys, *Voyage in the Dark*.

Tues Oct 14: Rhys

Thurs Oct 16: Midterm

III. Second wave feminism and the sexual revolution

Tues. Oct 21: Jong, *Fear of Flying*. Post #7 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Oct 23: Jong

Tues. Oct 28: Jong. Post #8 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Oct 30: Churchill, “Cloud Nine” in *Plays*, *One*

Tues. Nov. 4: Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*

Thurs Nov 6: Carter. Proposal for Essay #2 due: 1-page explanation of your topic accompanied by a 5-

item bibliography using MLA style.

Tues Nov 11: Barker, *Blow the House Down*. Post #9 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Nov 13: Barker

Tues Nov 18: Winterson, *Oranges*. Post #10 to D2L for Tu or Th.

Thurs Nov 20: Winterson

Thanksgiving break

Tues Dec 2: Kincaid, *Lucy*.

Thurs Dec 4: Kincaid

There will be a final exam during exam week.

Some relevant primary sources

Bradlaugh, Charles and Annie Besant (ed) *Fruits of Philosophy* (1877)

Nordau, Max. *Degeneration* (1892; Eng 1895)

Schreiner, Olive. *Women and Labour* (1911)

Pankhurst, Christabel *The Great Scourge and How to End It* (1913)

Sanger, Margaret. *What Every Mother Should Know; What Every Girl Should Know* (1913)

Stopes, Marie. *Married Love* (1918)

Sanger, Margaret. *Woman and the New Race* (1920)

Lawrence, DH. *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1929)

Riviere, Joan. "Womanliness as Masquerade" (1929)

Freud, Sigmund. "Female Sexuality" (1931)

Kinsey, Alfred C. et al. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Male* (1948)

De Beauvoir, Simone. *The Second Sex* (1949)

Kinsey, Alfred C. et al. *Sexual Behavior in the Human Female* (1953)

Wolfenden Report (1957)

Brown, Helen Gurley. *Sex and the Single Girl* (1962)

Chamberlin, J. Edward, ed. *Degeneration: The Dark side of Progress*

Faderman, Lilian. *Surpassing the Love of Men*

Friedan, Betty. *The Feminine Mystique* (1963)

Masters, William H. and Virginia Johnson. *Human Sexual Response* (1966)

Seaman, Barbara. *The Doctors' Case against the Pill* (1969)

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* (1969)

Greer, Germaine. *The Female Eunuch* (1970)

Millett, Kate. *Sexual Politics* (1970)

Friday, Nancy. *My Secret Garden* (1973)

Morgan, Marabel. *The Total Woman* (1973)

Brown, Rita Mae. *Ruby Fruit Jungle* (1973)

Rich, Adrienne. *Of Woman Born* (1973)

Hite, Sherri. *The Hite Report* (1976)

Bass, Ellen. *I Never Told Anyone* (1977)

Rich, Adrienne. "Compulsory Heterosexuality and Lesbian Existence" (1980)

hooks, bell. *Ain't I a Woman* (1981)

Moraga, Cherrie and Gloria E. Anzaldua (eds). *This Bridge Called My Back* (1981)

Lorde, Audre. *Zami: A New Spelling of My Name* (1983)

Walker, Alice. *In Search of Our Mother's Gardens* (1983)
 Jeffreys, Sheila. *The Spinster and her Enemies* (1985)
 Dworkin, Andrea. *Intercourse* (1987)
 Redfern, Catherine. *The F-Word* (<http://www.thefword.org.uk/blog/>) blog, ongoing)

Some relevant secondary sources

Benstock, Shari. *Women of the Left Bank*
 Bland, Lucy. *Banishing the Beast: Sexuality and the Early Feminists*
 Bland, Lucy and Laura Doan, *Sexology in Culture*
 Caine, Barbara. *English Feminism 1780-1980*
 Chauncey, George. "From Sexual Inversion to Homosexuality: Medicine and the Changing Conceptualization of Female Deviance." *Salmagundi* 58-9 (Fall-Winter 1982): 114-46.
 Doan, Laura, ed. *The Lesbian Postmodern*
 ---. *Old Maids to Radical Spinsters*
 Felski, Rita. *The Gender of Modernity*
 Foucault, *The History of Sexuality*
 Garber, Marjorie. *Vested Interests*.
 Gilbert, Susan and Sandra Gubar. *No Man's Land*.
 Katz, Jonathan. "The Invention of Heterosexuality"
 Laqueur, *The Making of Sex*
 Maines, Rachel. *The Technology of Orgasm*
 Rado, Lisa. *The Modern Androgyne Imagination: A Failed Sublime*
 Scott, Bonnie Kime, ed. *The Gender of Modernism*.
 Sedgwick, Eve, *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire*
 Showalter, Elaine. *The Female Malady: Women, Madness and English Culture*
 ---. *Sexual Anarchy: Gender and Culture at the Fin de Siecle*